

Serial No.: 10/732,937  
Inventor(s): Bridges et al.

U.S. PTO Customer No. 25280  
Case No.: 5505B

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A carpet having a jet dyed image printed on at least an upper surface thereof and comprising a tufted carpet including at least one low melt constituent thread tufted in at least one carpet backing and the tufted carpet being prepared by the process of:

forming the at least one higher melting thread comprising at least one low melt fiber and at least one higher melting point fiber constituent, wherein the higher melting point constituent is non-continuous;

passing said higher melting thread through a doubling or winding process wherein a lower melting point thread is added;

spinning or twisting the higher melting thread and the lower melting thread to form a combined thread;

heating said combined thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said low melt fiber thread;

tufting said thread in the carpet backing to form the tufted carpet; and

printing an image on said tufted carpet with a jet dye machine.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said combined thread is heated to a temperature of about 60°C to about 160°C.

7. (Original) The carpet of claim 6 wherein said temperature is no more than about 120°C.

8. (Original) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said low melt fiber comprises polyamide.

9. (Original) The carpet of claim 8 wherein said polyamide is selected from a group consisting of nylon 6,6 and nylon 6.

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10.(Original) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said higher melting point fiber constituent is selected from the group consisting of nylon, wool, polyester, polypropylene, and blends thereof.

11.(Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said printing is carried out by the jet dye machine in a pixelate fashion.

12.(Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said higher melting point fiber constituent is at least one of nylon and wool.

13.(Original) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said higher melting point fiber constituent is a nylon wool blend.

14.(Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said combined thread has a yarn count of about 1.0 to about 5.0.

15.(Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said combined thread has a yarn count of about 2.

16.(Original) The carpet of claim 12 comprising about 8 to about 28 denier per filament for nylon.

17.(Original) The carpet of claim 12 wherein said wool is about 25 to about 40 microns.

18.(Original) The carpet of claim 12 wherein said wool is about 38 microns.

19.(Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said higher melting thread has a yarn count of about 0.5 to about 8.0.

20.(Original) The carpet of claim 19 wherein said yarn count is about 3.

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21.(Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said combined thread has about 1 to about 10 twist per inch.

22.(Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 21 wherein said combined thread has about 5 twist per inch.

23.(Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 22 wherein said combined thread is a 1 to 4 ply.

24.(Original) The carpet of claim 21 wherein said thread is plied nylon with about 4.5 twist per inch.

25.(Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 1 wherein said higher melting thread has about 6-25 denier per filament.

26.(Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 25 wherein said higher melting thread has about 19 denier per filament.

27.(Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 25 wherein said higher melting thread has 1 to 4 ply ~~not including said low melt.~~

28.(Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 27 wherein said higher melting thread is 2 ply.

29.(Withdrawn) A process for forming printed carpet comprising the steps of:  
forming a thread comprising low melt fiber and a higher melting point fiber  
constituent;

heating said thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said low melt fiber;  
tufting said thread in a carpet backing to form a tufted carpet; and  
printing an image on said tufted carpet after heating.

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30. (Currently Amended) A carpet prepared by the process of:  
forming a ~~blended fiber~~ thread comprising a ~~low melt fiber~~ and a higher melting point ~~staple fiber constituent~~;  
passing said thread through a doubling or winding process wherein a lower melting point filament is added;  
~~forming a thread of said blended fiber~~;  
spinning or twisting to form a combined thread;  
heating said thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said low melt fiber;  
tufting said thread in a carpet backing to form a tufted carpet; and  
printing an image on said tufted carpet ~~after heating~~ with a jet dye machine.

31. (Currently Amended) A carpet prepared by the process of:  
forming a higher melting thread from at least a first higher melting fiber constituent and a wool fiber constituent;  
passing said higher melting thread through a doubling or winding process wherein a lower melting point fiber or thread is added;  
spinning to form a combined thread;  
heating said combined thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said lower melting point fiber or thread;  
after heating tufting said combined thread in a carpet backing to form a tufted carpet; and  
printing an image on said tufted carpet with a jet dye machine.

32. (Currently Amended) A carpet prepared by the process of:  
forming a thread from at least a first higher melting fiber constituent fiber blend;  
passing said ~~fiber blend~~ thread through a ring spinning process wherein a lower melting point fiber is added to said ~~fiber blend~~ thread to form a combined thread;  
heating said combined thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said lower melting point fiber;  
tufting said combined thread in a carpet backing to form a tufted carpet; and  
printing an image on said tufted carpet in a pixelate fashion, wherein the image

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printed is a pattern.

33. (Withdrawn) A process for forming jet dyed patterned carpet comprising the steps of:

forming a blended fiber comprising a low melt fiber and a high melt fiber;  
forming a thread of said blended fiber;  
heating said thread above a temperature sufficient to melt said low melt fiber;  
tufting said thread in a carpet backing to form a tufted carpet; and  
printing an image on said tufted carpet using a jet dye machine.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 1, wherein the carpet is at least one of cut pile, loop pile, cut and loop pile, broadloom, carpet tile, area rugs, and runners.

36. (Currently Amended) The carpet of claim 34 31, wherein the carpet is at least one of cut pile, loop pile, cut and loop pile, broadloom, carpet tile, area rugs, runners, tufted carpet, and bonded carpet.

37. (New) The carpet of claim 1, wherein the higher melting point fiber constituent is a staple fiber.

38. (New) The carpet of claim 1, wherein the lower melting point thread comprises lower melting point staple fibers.

39. (New) The carpet of claim 31, wherein said higher melting thread comprises approximately 75% by weight nylon fibers and approximately 25% by weight wool fibers.